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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF.

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Recommendations by the representatives of countries participating in the Fifth Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf held in Warsaw are listed in this report. Five recommendations each are presented by the Medical and Audiological Commission, the Psychological C mmission, the Pedagogical Commission, the Social Commission, and the Commission for Communication Methods. The Commission on Vocational Rehabilitation and the Commission for Art and Culture list six recommendations each. Four recommendations are made by the Commission for Technical Assistance to the Deaf in Developing Countries. All recommendations were discussed and accepted during the closing plenary session of the Congress. A summary statement of the final address is included. (RS)

WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

FEDERATION MONDIALE DES SOURDS

An International Non-Governmental Organization in official relationship with the Economic and Social Council of U.N., UNESCO, I.L.O. and W.H.O.

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RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FIFTH CONGRESS of the WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF

Warsaw, August 13-17,1967

After sessions in the permanent commissions of the Scientific Section of WFD, discussions, and also after the delivery of papers, the representatives of the countries participating in the Warsaw Congress put forward the following recommendations which have been discussed and accepted during the closing plenary session of the Congress:

Medical and Audiological Commission of W.F.D.

1) It has been stated once again that prophylactic services aiming at diminishing the number of the deaf and hard of hearing people should be reorganized and intensified. There is the necessity to discover hearing impairments, as early as possible, within the frames of health services in all countries, particularly in infants as well as in children of pre-school and school age by means of all country examinations, if possible free of charge, and also in adults, especially in recruits and industrial workers.

2) Centres dealing with diagnostics and rehabilitation of children and adults with hearing impairments should be established.

3) There ought to be organized family planning centres in all countries, since the genetic factor and heredity is of a great importance.

4) Electroacoustic equipment should be widely used in diagnostics and rehabilitation, as far as possible, it is recommended to supply children suffering from hearing impairments with hearing aids, as early as possible, as well as to improve such aids.

5) All scientific, research and medical institutions dealing with hearing impairments are called on to intensify studies on the deafness of the labyrinthian and non-labyrinthian origin. This problem should also be included among subjects of the next congress.

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Psychological Commission of W.F.D.

1. Centres for the multidisciplinary training of psychologists for work with the deaf should be established in all countries and ought to be adjusted to the existing circumstances.

2. It is necessary to introduce TRAINED psychologists, specialized in the psychology of the deaf, into schools and centres dealing with the rehabilitation of the deaf. The need for such action can be proved by the results of the work presented by papers delivered.

3. It is recommended that programmes and forms of psychologist's work in different types of rehabilitation centres be surveyed and a report presented for the next congress in order to exchange points of view and to discuss them.

   These programmes should pay particular attention to:

   a/ methods of psychological diagnosis, especially in the examination of intellectual level and other features of the personality of the deaf, and then to the unification of these methods by means of an international agreement e.g. through international organizations affiliated with the United Nations; this requires working symposia organized in centres carrying on such work;

   b/ improvement of psychological methods of the rehabilitation of deaf children, youth and adults in cooperation with other disciplines involved in deafness rehabilitation;

   c/ working out a programme for psychotherapy of deaf children and adults in cooperation with psychiatrists.

4. It is emphasized that there is the necessity to carry on periodical examinations by various specialists in order to ensure proper psychological, pedagogic and medical care and also well-organized work on the rehabilitation of the deaf. It is recommended to concentrate particular attention on children from deaf families.

5. Particular regard should be paid to the importance of long-term comparative studies on the development of personality in deaf children attending special schools and those attending normal schools. The studies should be carried on by research centres for rehabilitation of the deaf in all countries.

Pedagogical Commission

1. World Federation of the Deaf and national associations of the deaf are recommended to make efforts, together with experts, towards the elaboration of a new system of classification of the deaf to most the needs of their rehabilitation; this system should be based on papers delivered during the Congress in Warsaw and it ought to be presented for acceptance to the next congress.
   This system ought to:

   a/ be based on the latest results of scientific research;
   b/ take into consideration various possibilities of the development connected with the degree of hearing loss and the time when such losses occure, as well as the intellectual level and other deviations of the development of the deaf;
   c/ use the latest achievements of technique as regards electroacoustic equipment.

2. We call on the Governments of all countries and all national associations of the deaf to take stops towards covering deaf children by the most effective and inexpensive audiological and pedagogic care fron the very moment of stating deafness. Therefore, it is necessary to:

   a/ organize rehabilitation consulting centres for deaf children, their parents and teachers of children with hearing impairments, and to include such centres into national systems of education;
   b/ organize the surdopedagogic care of young deaf children in their families. It is necessary for the families which cannot ensure proper care of the children of their own owing to any social, economic or legal obstacles. This help would also cover the organisation of the education in families or in boarding-schools for the deaf;
   c/ make all possible efforts towards placing children with suitable intellectual potential and having the proper family care at nursery-schools and crashes for hearing children in order to enable them to integrate into the environment of the hearing world.

3. In order to overcome illiteracy of the deaf and to prepare them for life in more and more difficult conditions, Governments of all countries and all national associations should take steps towards making the education universal and towards the further improvement of education. Therefore, it is necessary to:

   a/ work out and apply in practice an appropriate system of selection and directing children to adequate schools. This should be based on detailed knowledge of such children and on the work with them during their pre-school years;

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b/ give appropriately developed and properly trained deaf children full possibilities to learn together with hearing ones in normal schools, colleges and institutions of higher education;

c/ organize a sufficient number of special schools, so as to ensure the most appropriate kind of schools for all deaf children who cannot attend normal schools and to give them highest possible level of knowledge.

4. While striving for the constant improvement of the methods of the education of the deaf, national associations of the deaf ought to do their best in order to support new trends and any experimental attempts in this field. The World Federation of the Deaf should set up a special committee which, in cooperation with national associations, would worl out the programme of and coordinate scientific research on the organisation and ways of the education of the deaf in the forthcoming years.

5. The World Federation of the Deaf should initiate the international exchange of experience and achievements in the field of the information about studies carried on, and also the exchange of publications, films, slides, equipments etc. The Federation ought to send surdopedagogues to the countries in which systems of training the deaf are highly developed.

Commission on Vocational Rehabilitation

1. National authorities and social organisations dealing with rehabilitation of the deaf as well as the World Federation of the Deaf and national associations of the deaf ought to pay attention to the fact that an irremissable condition of the proper placement of the deaf at work is:

   - improvement of their general education
   - specialized guidance for the deaf
   - development and modernization of the vocational training of deaf youth
   - development of various forms of training and of further instruction of deaf adults
   - training and further instruction of the staff necessary in the vocational rehabilitation of the deaf.

2. It is recommended to initiate and carry on studies in order to:

   - work out recommendations regarding the organization of special vocational guidance of the deaf with particular regard to physical development and psychological evaluation of the deaf as well as to changes in the process of production;
   - settle modern trends in vocational training connected with changes in industry;
   - adjust work stands in various branches of economy to psychophysical features of the deaf and to the requirements of the hygiene safety conditions;
   - elevate the organization, forms and methods of education and further vocational instruction in accordance with modern means of information and also modern technology in the progress of mechanization and automation.

3. Guidance, education and further vocational instruction as well as employment should tend to the integration of the deaf into hearing people. Therefore, it is necessary to:

   - ensure the deaf the best possible preparation for work in a trade chosen;
   - make them master the ability to communicate with hearing people;
   - make use of all sources of information given by employers and also by public opinion as regards abilities of the deaf to work in particular trades;
   - take care of the deaf in the very moment of their transition from school to work and within their initial period of work;

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- bound all national associations of the deaf and organizations dealing with the deaf to assist and help them.

4. It is necessary to organize establishments for sheltered work for the multihandicapped deaf workers.

5. Particulary important is the cooperation of the World Federation of the Deaf and national associations of the deaf with such international and intergovernmental organizations as the United Nations, International Labour Organization and others, as well as with governments of particular countries. Therefore, it is necessary to:

- call on all governments to secure the deaf the right to vocational rehabilitation and necessary services, on the basis of the recommendation N° 99 of the International Labour Organization;
- call on international organizations to inform constantly about the vocational rehabilitation of the deaf by means of periodicals published;
- influence the further increase of exchange of experts in the field of the vocational rehabilitation of the deaf between associations of the Federation, and also to start the exchange of deaf students.

6. Finally, the Commission proposes to concentrate the work of the Commission on Vocational Rehabilitation at the next Congress on problems connected with training and placement to work of multihandicapped deaf. It seems necessary to organize a symposium on this subject before the next Congress.

Social Commission

1. The Social Commission is alarmed by the fact that many countries all over the world have not yet attained desirable effects in the field of prevention from deafness, of education, employment and social services for the deaf.
The situation makes their full rehabilitation and integration difficult. Difficulties faced by deaf people result, first of all, from social discrimination existing in many countries. Therefore, the World Federation of the Deaf and its executive organs are bound to intensify their efforts towards solution of these numerous tasks. First of all, it is necessary to:

   a/ call on the United Nations, their specialized agencies and all governments to issue legal acts guaranteeing equal rights for deaf and hearing people in the field of health services,education, vocational training and working conditions and also social insurance;
   b/ intensify efforts aiming at popularization of provisions existing in developed countries /United Kingdom, Denmark, Yougoslavia, Poland, Sweden, USA, Italy, USSR etc./ in those developing ones, so as to compensate and overcome deafness and also to ensure the deaf definite facilities and proper assistance (disability payment, hearing aids free of charge a.s.o.).

2. The Secretariat of the World Federation of the Deaf is recommended to collect, with the help of the United Nations Specialized Agencies and national associations of the deaf, material concerning social situation of the deaf in member countries of the United Nations, and also that referring to legal provisions comprising impairments of hearing and speech in order to present such material at the Social Commission which will work out concrete recommendations aiming at full social rehabilitation of the deaf all over the world.

3. There is the necessity for the World Federation and national associa tions of the deaf to carry on active and continuous work on possibilities to rehabilitate the deaf by means of constant information and propaganda and any other means available.

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Therefore, the plan of the work for the WFD Bureau should include also the organization of press conferences and the publication of a bulletin for representatives from editorial offices of periodicals dealing with problems concerning the deaf, issued in member countries of the World Federation of the Deaf.

4. The Commission suggests to organize the work of other commissions in the way which would make them able to work in close cooperation with the Social Commission, since most problems concerning the deaf may be solved on the basis of special legal provisions.

With the object of solving the problems concerning the deaf as a whole and of co-ordinating the WFD Scientific Commissions' activity, the WFD Secretariat should forward all recommendations, long-term plans as well as any kind of information about the work of the Scientific Commissions to the Presidents of the Commissions.

5. It is necessary for the further regular development of the activity of the Commission to appoint a special board of experts consisting of five persons coming from countries with best results attained in the field of rehabilitation and social conditions of the deaf.
The board would be appointed by the WFD Bureau.

Commission for Art and Culture of the W.F.D.

1. It is recommended to promote amateur artistic activity of the deaf as the most effective way to establish contacts with the world and to struggle against any form of the isolation of the deaf, and for the integration of them with hearing people.

2. There is the necessity to establish centres for programmes and methods of the popularization of culture among the deaf in all countries affiliated with WFD. These centres would carry on the research work and training of a special instructing staff in the field of the cultural and artistic work with the deaf. They should also deal with the exchange of experience between national associations affiliated with WFD;

3. It is necessary to form an ability to percept the kinds of art available to the deaf, from early childhood, then develop systematically and skilfully these abilities in schools and away from them. This is also recommended to organize international exhibitions and festivals for the deaf as regards pantomime, ballet, folk-dances, photography, sculpture, painting and film in cooperation with WFD.

4. There is the necessity to introduce modern technology to cultural and artistic work with the deaf, as well as to establish schools in which amateur deaf artists could have a possibility to attain qualifications of professionals.
These may be as well international schools.

5. It is recommended to enrich forms and ways of tourism in the cultural and artistic work among the deaf and to establish an international touristic organization for the deaf(e.g. existing at CISS) under the protectorate of WFD.

6. In order to make possible the implementation of these recommendations, the Commission for Art and Culture should be reorganized and divided into sections dealing with particular narrow branches of basic forms and trends for cultural and artistic work with the deaf.
It is also necessary to organize an international symposium in 1969 and to establish an information centre which would publish the bulletin dealing with cultural and artistic work in particular countries.

Commission for Technical Assistance to the Deaf in Developing Countries

1. There are two ways of improving the status quo: efforts of national associations of the deaf and assistance from abroad. The existence of an organisation of and for the deaf which would be able tc work out and put into effect a programme of work makes better possibilities to meet the needs of the deaf in their own countries.
   In order to obtain assistance from abroad, the General Secretariate of the World Federation of the Deaf should strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations, International Labour Organization, World Health Organization, UNESCO and UNICEF.
   National associations ought to be informed about possibilities to grant scholarships, and also about possibilities to make use of experts and financial means. The WFD General Secretariate should appoint an officer to deal with the instruction of developing countries in this field.

2. Particular attention should be paid to problems connected with aids which improve hearing. Therefore, the World Federation of the Deaf ought to encourage governments of developing countries to make use of the help and advice of the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

3. The World Health Organization should initiate training of staff by means of bilateral exchange between countries interested.

4. The World Federation of the Deaf ought to:

   a/ organize, with the help of international organizations interested in rehabilitation of the deaf, four regional offices which would initiate services connected with rehabilitation;

   b/ set up the permanent Commission for Technical Assistance to the Deaf in Developing Countries which would take care of rehabilitation services for the deaf in developing countries.

Commission for Communication Methods of the W.F.D.

1. It is stressed the priority of spoken language as means of communication for the deaf. It is necessary to make efforts towards giving deaf children the possibility to speak and read by lips from their earliest years. This should be done by means of all educational means known, so as to accelerate and improve command of spoken language and to develop intellect of the deaf, as well as to make possible their integration into the environment of hearing people.

2. It is stressed the necessity to publish a bulletin in five languages which would give information on education of deaf children. Such bulletin would help all people interested in the elevation of the intellectual, cultural and vocational level of the deaf and also in the betterment of their social position.

3. After the delivery of the report by the Committe of Experts for the Unification of the International Sign Language it is recommended to complete this work as soon as possible, since it will be possible then to discuss and to exchange information between the deaf on the national and international level. All national associations of the deaf affiliated with the Federation are invited to extend their cooperation to the Committee and to supply it with any material concerning signs commonly used in their countries.

4. It is recommended to accept the manual alphabet presented by the Committee of Experts.

5. The World Federation of the Deaf should organize a symposium devoted to training of interpreters for the international congresses of the deaf.

FINAL ADDRESS

The Fifth Congress of the World Federation of the Deaf, attended by scientists, physicians, psychologists, pedagogues, logopedists, social workers and experts, calls on all governments, state authorities, international as well as national organizations to act for the benefit of both hearing and deaf people, so as to make endeavours initiated at this Congress, aiming at equal rights for the deaf as regards their intellectual development, education and vocational training, and also efforts towards making the deaf citizens of full value, become the subject of particular care, and to make the implementation of recommendations mentioned hereby become the subject of their added concern and efforts.

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